

November 12, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Dept. Medical Genetics
University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

My wife was incapacitated by Polio just one year ago. At the time she was stricken everything seemed most dismal for when the crises passed and she was removed from the Iron Lung it was readily discovered that she had lost the use of both legs and one arm. She was sent to the Haverstraw Rehabilitation Center and the general topic of conversation is recovery. As time wears on, one discovers that recovery isn't quite that simple if at all.

Esquire magazine ran an illuminating article on both you and Dr. Watson of Harvard which indicated to me that perhaps you had some knowledge regarding the latest advancements in this field. Long leg braces, parallel bars, and buttock exercises seem to be the only approach to this devastating problem today. What is really needed is nerve transplants, or a medicine or some wiring arrangement that will bring the broken circuit back into working order. Surely someone in the field of medical research must be laboring with this task. We feel that perhaps we are standing on the threshold of some new discovery and that you might have some knowledge as to where to go or whom to contact.

I personally was an excellent student in the study of physiology and stand quite ready to volunteer my services to advance the end result.

Our prime desire is to get my wife walking and if there is anyone we can go to or anything we can try we would certainly be most pleased to hear about it from you.

We certainly need some help and the orthopedic men here can only suggest exercise, this to my knowledge, cannot regenerate a destroyed nerve cell or reconnect a nerve.